

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/796,930

Examiner

Arnel C. Lavarias

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/26/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments to the specification and abstract of the disclosure in the submission dated 6/26/06 are acknowledged and accepted. In view of these amendments, the objections to the specification in Sections 4-5 of the Office Action dated 3/20/06 are respectfully withdrawn.
2. The amendments to Claims 1-2, 22, 40, 48, 50-51 in the submission dated 6/26/06 are acknowledged and accepted.

Response to Arguments

3. The Applicants' arguments, see particularly Applicants' remarks on Pages 13-16 of the response, filed 6/26/06, with respect to the rejections of Claims 1-51, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of Claims 1-51 in Sections 7-17 of the Office Action dated 3/20/06 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-51 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 40, 51 are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a polarization control method and polarization control system, as generally set forth in Claims 1, 40, 51, the method and system including, in combination with the features recited in Claims 1, 40, 51, (the step of) continuing rotation of the first waveplate for a non-fixed time period while the feedback signal satisfies a first condition. Claims 2-21, 41-49 are dependent on Claims 1 and 40, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 40 are allowable.

Claims 22 and 50 are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a method of controlling a state of polarization and a polarization control system, as generally set forth in Claims 22 and 50, the method and system including, in combination with the features recited in Claims 22 and 50, (the steps of) continually adjusting a first one of the plurality of waveplates along a first rotation direction for a non-fixed time period while a feedback signal satisfies a first condition, continually adjusting a second one of the plurality of waveplates along a second rotation direction for a non-fixed time period while the feedback signal satisfies a second condition, and continually adjusting a third one of the plurality of waveplates along a third rotation direction for a non-fixed time period while the feedback signal satisfies a third condition. Claims 23-39 are dependent on Claim 22, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 22 is allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany

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the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 AM - 6 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Arnel C. Lavarias
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2872
8/8/06